Amendments To Claims

Claims 1-20. (Cancelled).

21.   (New) A method for detecting an attempt at automated creation of a user account to a computer-related service, comprising:

generating a communication that presents a stimulus that is perceptible by one or more human senses and poses a question that pertains to the stimulus;

obtaining an answer to the question and comparing the answer to a correct answer that would be provided by a human being attempting to create the user account such that the question is selected to exercise a capability of the human being to perform common sense reasoning with respect to the stimulus.

22.   (New) The method of claim 21, further comprising obtaining a set of material for rendering the stimulus and the question from a data store that holds a set of pre-selected material for a variety of stimuli and questions that exercise the capability of the human being to perform common sense reasoning.

23.   (New) The method of claim 22, wherein obtaining a set of material comprises varying one or more visual characteristics of the stimulus.

24.   (New) The method of claim 21, further comprising measuring

- 2 -

a response time to the question and determining whether the response time indicates that the answer was provided by the human being.

25. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the stimulus depicts a living thing.

26. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the question pertains to a capability of the living thing.

27. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the stimulus depicts the living thing visually.

28. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the stimulus depicts the living thing using sound.

29. (New) The method of claim 21, further comprising adapting the stimulus to a disability of the human being.

30. (New) The method of claim 21, further comprising selecting the question to exercise a capability of the human being to recognize and parse spoken speech.

31. (New) A computer-readable storage media that holds a set of computer-executable instructions that when executed detects an attempt at automated creation of a user account to a computer-related service by:

    generating a communication that presents a stimulus that

is perceptible by one or more human senses and poses a question that pertains to the stimulus;

obtaining an answer to the question and comparing the answer to a correct answer that would be provided by a human being attempting to create the user account such that the question is selected to exercise a capability of the human being to perform common sense reasoning with respect to the stimulus.

32. (New) The computer-readable storage media of claim 31, further comprising obtaining a set of material for rendering the stimulus and the question from a set of pre-selected material for a variety of stimuli and questions that exercise the capability of the human being to perform common sense reasoning.

33. (New) The computer-readable storage media of claim 32, wherein obtaining a set of material comprises varying one or more visual characteristics of the stimulus.

34. (New) The computer-readable storage media of claim 31, further comprising measuring a response time to the question and determining whether the response time indicates that the answer was provided by the human being.

35. (New) The computer-readable storage media of claim 31, wherein the stimulus depicts a living thing.

36.   (New) The computer-readable storage media of claim 35, wherein the question pertains to a capability of the living thing.

37.   (New) The computer-readable storage media of claim 35, wherein the stimulus depicts the living thing visually.

38.   (New) The computer-readable storage media of claim 35, wherein the stimulus depicts the living thing using sound.

39.   (New) The computer-readable storage media of claim 31, further comprising adapting the stimulus to a disability of the human being.

40.   (New) The computer-readable storage media of claim 31, further comprising selecting the question to exercise a capability of the human being to recognize and parse spoken speech.